



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Plank)
Application No.: 09/623,865)
Filed: January 15, 1999)
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING)
A RIM HOLE)
(U.S. National Stage of)
PCT/EP99/00217))

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks, Washington D.C. 20231 on 12/19/00

(Date of Deposit)

RICHARD B. HOFFMAN

Name of applicant assignee, or
Registered Representative

Richard B. Hoffman

12/19/00 Signature
Date of Signature

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Further to the filing of the subject application, which is the U.S. National Stage of PCT/EP99/00217, the Applicant respectfully requests that the application be amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 6, after "of the rim hole", please insert --/ and is formed in one single feed motion of the rim hole punch, the rim hole as well as the opening at the other rear plate-shaped work piece in the feed direction of the rim hole punch in that the plate-shaped work piece turned away from the rim hole punch is supported by a die in a manner that when inserting the rim hole punch into the pile, a piece of material is broken off the rear plate-shaped work piece, the outer contour of this piece of material is basically corresponding to the outer contour of the rim hole.

A method of this type is known from the Japanese patent application 201630/1997. In this method, two stacked plates are

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